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Bangalore Mirror

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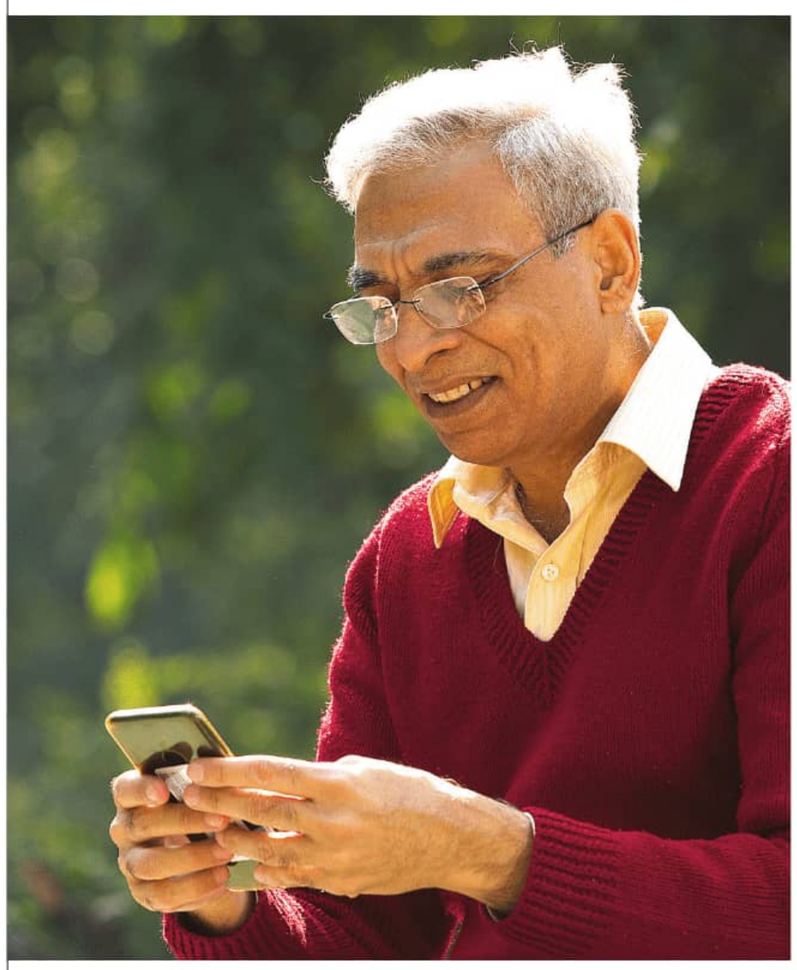

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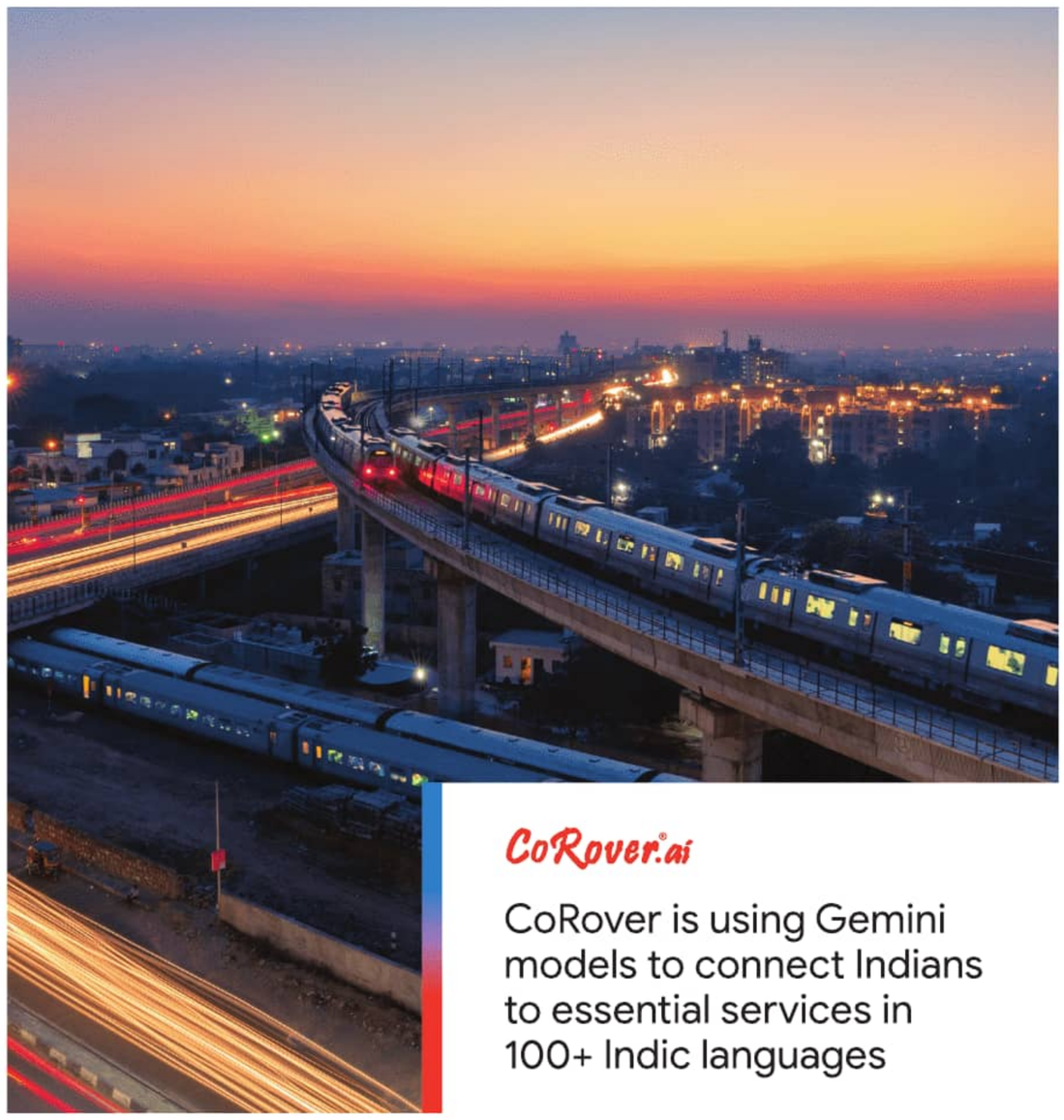

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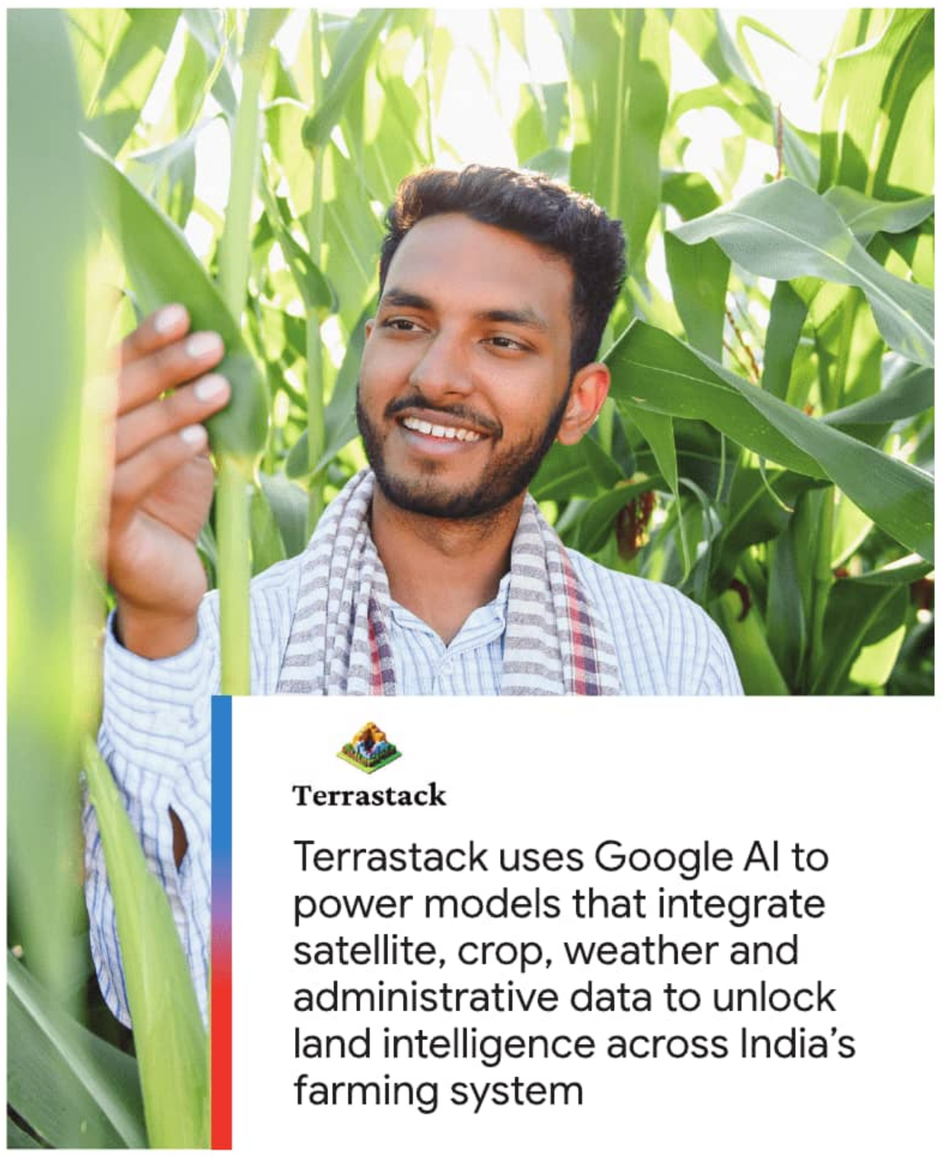

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GREEN TRANSIT

Bengaluru's corporate workforce ready to ditch cars if safe walking, cycling infrastructure is in place

PAGE 2

ALL MUCKED UP

Crores of rupees spent to build sewage treatment plants, but sewage flows unhindered into lakes

PAGE 4

Communication barriers, tendency to treat some cases as non-serious among reasons why many in city still find police force unapproachable and talk of difficulties they face in getting FIRs filed

CASE IS CLOSED

Timely responses, clear communication and greater accountability can improve policing, activists say

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FILE PHOTO

As crime rates rise, many in the city talk about difficulty in approaching the police, or getting an FIR filed due to the blind spots in policing.

Activist Broseph shared one such case recently on X. The complainant alleged that despite submitting detailed documents and evidence regarding a vehicle dispute, no FIR was filed by the police station, so there was no preliminary inquiry. Activist Dushyant, who is also known as Broseph, told BM, "If a person can't get an FIR done, despite toiling for so many days, then what kind of justice can people expect? The FIR is basically the first step to get a criminal punished. But when the police don't register an FIR, the message it sends to the public is that the police are not inclined to get the criminal punished," he said.

As per Broseph, the concern is not limited to this specific case but expands to the others he helps every day. He shared that issues ranging from cybercrime to theft, pickpocketing and women's safety are not seeing the kind of policing required to bring justice and security to the common man. Sharing a growing concern of Bengaluru citizens, he said, "Many citizens feel that involving the cops is like inviting unwanted trouble and stress. It is a serious problem and the police should be more approachable."

Sathwik Putta, an advocate, shared that he is often met with resistance while registering FIRs for animal cruelty-related cases. According to him, cases involving poisoning, hit-and-run incidents, illegal relocation and assault of community animals are often recorded as NCRs

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >>

> **"Most of us do not approach the police unless we have absolutely no other option. The fear is not only about whether action will be taken, but whether we will be treated with dignity while seeking help**
>
> — Trans citizen

Crash counter

1 accident every 2 hours, 1 life lost every 10 hours on city roads

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TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

A road accident took place every 110 minutes and a person died every 10 hours on city roads in 2024, making the city the second worst in the country for both road crashes and fatalities. The latest Road Accidents in India 2024 report by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways shows that Bengaluru recorded 4,769 accidents, 894 deaths and 4,022 injuries last year, underlining the scale of the road safety challenge facing India's technology capital.

The city accounted for 5.81% of all accidents reported across the country's 50 million-plus cities in 2024. Only Delhi reported a higher number of accidents and fatalities.

The statistics reveal a disturbing daily pattern. Bengaluru witnessed an average of 13 accidents every day, leaving 11 people injured and claiming nearly three lives which means one person was injured every two hours and 11 minutes, while a life was lost every nine hours and 48 minutes.

National ranking

Bengaluru recorded 4,769 accidents in 2024, placing it second after Delhi,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 >>

THINGS TO DO

01 Dance of devotion

Natanam Institute of Dance presents 'Nruthya Sammilana', a grand Bharatanatyam recital featuring Maanasa Ranga and Divya Vijayalakshmi Dharmarajan, disciples of renowned Bharatanatyam exponent Vidushi Dr Raksha Karthik.
Where: Medai – The Stage, Shanthala Nagar;
When: June 28, 10 am

02 Poetry unbound

For their upcoming 'Tuesdays with the Bard @ Urban Solace' edition, Urban Solace Café is hosting Eva Garg, a poet and artist whose work draws inspiration from rap music, films, emotionally intimate storytelling and everyday life.
Where: Urban Solace Café, Ulsoor;
When: June 23, 7.30 pm

03 Musical morning

Acclaimed sarangi artist Sarfaraaz Khan will be performing for an intimate recital featuring a morning raga, bringing a morning where melody, atmosphere and the rhythms of the day unite in a contemplative musical journey.
Where: Lumbini, Jagriti Theatre;
When: June 28, 7.30 am

04 Echoes of tradition

The Academy of Music (Regd), Chowdiah Memorial Hall, Vyalikaval, is set to present 'Nrutya Rangoli 2026', a prestigious three-day national dance extravaganza celebrating the richness and diversity of Indian classical dance traditions.
Where: Chowdiah Memorial Hall;
When: July 10 to 12

05 Heritage unfolds

Storyteller Vikram Sridhar will be hosting a walk through the lanes of Indiranagar, exploring the area's folklore, heritage and ecology, weaving together historical, mythical and personal narratives that bring the neighbourhood to life.
Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar;
When: June 27, 7 am

Bengalureans are ready to walk the talk

City-wide active mobility event highlights citizens' willingness to adopt sustainable modes of transportation, provided city offers better, safer conditions for walking and cycling

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The month-long Hejje Gala active mobility challenge has concluded with a strong message for city planners: Bengaluru's corporate workforce is willing to shift away from car-dependent travel if safe walking and cycling infrastructure is provided.

Among the participating regions, GBA East emerged as the leading zone, recording 733 activities and generating an estimated carbon offset of 1,203.91 kg while saving 520.59 litres of fuel. The zone significantly outperformed other clusters, reflecting high engagement from employees working in Bengaluru's major technology and business corridors.

GBA Central followed GBA East with 162 activities, generating a carbon offset of 521.02 kg and saving 225.08 litres of fuel.

Hejje Gala is a city-wide active mobility event that encourages Bengalureans to walk and cycle whether as a primary commute mode or as a first- and last-mile link to public transport fostering healthier, greener movement across the city.

Overall, the challenge brought together 268 participants from 94 companies across seven corporate clusters. Participants logged more than 1,700 walking and cycling activities, helping offset nearly 1,900 kg of carbon dioxide emissions and save approximately 818 litres of fuel over the course of the challenge.

Shift to walking and cycling can help in fostering healthier, greener commutes (File photo)

All activities were tracked through Altmo, a mobility engagement platform that records walking and cycling trips and calculates their environmental impact. The platform provides real-time data on carbon emissions avoided, fuel savings and participation levels, helping organisations measure the benefits of active commuting. The results have challenged a long-standing assumption that employees in Bengaluru's technology sector prefer to rely exclusively on private cars for commuting.

According to Sathya Sankaran, founder of Altmo and Bicycle Mayor of Bengaluru, the data demonstrates that many professionals are ready to adopt sustainable modes of transport if the city creates safer conditions for walking and cycling.

"One of the most significant findings from Hejje Gala is that the demand for active mobility is strongest in areas where technology companies and business hubs are concentrated. GBA East and GBA North recorded substantial participation because a large number of corporate employees are located there. We also saw encouraging participation from Electronic City and other outer areas. The data clearly shows that people working in the technology sector are interested in shifting to a combination of metro connectivity, cycling and walking," he said.

Sankaran said the challenge should serve as a roadmap for urban planners and government agencies. "The community is clearly telling us that it wants better walking and cycling facilities. This is the right time for Greater Bengaluru Authority and other agencies to invest in active mobility infrastructure," he said.

He added that the information collected through the challenge should be used to develop targeted action plans that improve infrastructure in key employment corridors.

Data from various zones

GBA East
- Number of companies: **41**
- Activities: **733**
- Other: **394**
- CO2 offset: **1,203.91** kg
- Fuel saved: **520.59** litres

GBA Central
- Number of companies: **18**
- Activities: **162**
- Other: **215**
- CO2 offset: **521.02** kg
- Fuel saved: **225.08** litres

Bengaluru Urban
- Number of companies: **4**
- Activities: **41**
- Other: **46**
- CO2 offset: **163.3** kg
- Fuel saved: **70.71** litres

GBA North
- Number of companies: **13**
- Activities: **6**
- Other: **22**
- CO2 offset: **3.72** kg
- Fuel saved: **1.14** litres

GBA South
- Number of companies: **11**
- Activities: **3**
- Other: **53**
- CO2 offset: **1.42** kg
- Fuel saved: **0.66** litres

Gap between policy & implementation widens

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

(Non-Cognizable Reports) rather than FIRs despite provisions under the law. "When I asked to file an FIR in a hit-and-run case involving a community dog, it took me over an hour to explain to the police that it was an offence. They kept asking if it was my dog, and why the dog was not inside the house. I had to insist on getting the refusal in writing and had to use an escalatory tone before they finally agreed to file the FIR."

Vikash A Bafna, founder of Friend For Animal Trust, said that animal cruelty complaints are not always treated with the seriousness they require. "Going to a police station to file an FIR for animal cruelty is often far more difficult than it should be. Even when we have clear video evidence, some cases are not taken seriously. Animal cruelty is not 'just an animal issue'. It is a crime. The law exists to protect animals, but it can only work when complaints are taken seriously and acted upon," he said.

Many interstate professionals and students share that they do not feel comfortable confiding in the police while dealing with law and order situations. Although the city police have introduced multiple language options to the emergency helpline Namma 112 and continue to conduct public grievance meetings through senior officers, many complain that officials remain unapproachable in person.

Medha Kumari, who is from Uttar Pradesh and working in Bengaluru as an accountant, shared that she was once returning home late from work when she encountered a group of bikers who touched her inappropriately and catcalled her. She tried to get past them and when she found a Hoysala vehicle nearby she had hopes of safety, but instead she encountered more distress.

She said, "I kept explaining my situation to the officials, but to no avail. Once I told them I am from UP, in my broken Kannada but mostly in Hindi, they did not make an effort to understand or help me in any way." Finding it pointless, she had to reach out to her brother in Delhi, who then arranged a safe ride for her through a relative residing in the city while she waited in a nearby restaurant.

A similar sentiment is shared among many students who have come to the city for higher studies or better working opportunities. They say that the police tend to stop and question them with unsubstantiated accusations, which further instills fear. One student from Assam shared that he was once stopped by police officials at random and asked to show his personal belongings. Being aware of his rights, he initially refused. He said the situation soon escalated. "The officers started taking my bag and were speaking to me in Kannada, which I don't understand well. They further accused me of having banned substances on me and just made it a thing out of nothing," he said. He shared that he eventually had to pay money for them to leave him alone.

As per many activists, the issue is not necessarily the absence of laws or procedures. It is the gap between policy and implementation that continues to affect people on the ground. They argue that timely responses, clear communication and greater accountability can significantly improve policing and help restore citizen confidence in public institutions.

Many members of the transgender community share that they are often unsure about seeking police assistance. They say they have not only been wronged on several occasions but have also struggled to seek justice. This dismissive attitude towards the community has often left them to fend for themselves, seeking alternative avenues to voice their grievances. One member of the transgender community, requesting anonymity, said, "Most of us do not approach the police unless we have absolutely no other option. The fear is not only about whether action will be taken, but whether we will be treated with dignity while seeking help."

While initiatives such as Namma 112 and public outreach programmes have been introduced over the years, citizens argue that their effectiveness ultimately depends on implementation at the ground level. They maintain that ensuring complaints are heard, acknowledged and acted upon in a timely manner will be critical in strengthening confidence between citizens and the institutions meant to serve them.

As 50% rebate kicks in, netizens claim scheme 'lets off' violators

A total of 32,486 traffic e-challan cases were settled in Karnataka generating a revenue of Rs 96,73,800 on Sunday after the state government introduced a 50% concession on pending fines . Rajajinagar Traffic Police posted on social media that a man paid Rs 27,500 worth of fines on 100 recorded traffic violations. The post gained traction on X, with netizens saying that this way more are prone to breaking rules, so as and when the traffic police offer discounts, they can clear dues and accumulate further violations.

One user @rudresh_basava wrote, "In a sane world, the driving licence will be suspended and the defaulter will be reprimanded, but in our country the police take photos with all smiles as if the defaulter has achieved something great for them to finally post on social media."

A post on X by user @blueringtail shared screenshots showing Rs 1,000 challan issued for a motorcycle parked on a footpath. Following it up, the user found 21 pending challans amounting to a total of Rs 11,000 against the motorist, which had not been paid for some years and were being overlooked as more fines piled up.

The post saw netizens saying that repeated offenders are being "rewarded" through discount cycles rather than being punished. They further shared that for those following the rules and paying the fines on time, this becomes unfair. Alongside this, users questioned the effectiveness of the system and road safety in the already unsafe road conditions in the city, arguing that such repeated waivers encourage people to be more rash on roads, while they can enjoy the benefits of delaying payments and continuing to commit violations until the next discount scheme is announced. Officials, however, maintain that digital and offline payment systems have been introduced to improve compliance and reduce backlog. — BMB

CRIME FILES

4 arrested in gym trainer's murder

Bannerghatta police station officials have arrested four persons in an alleged case of murder of a 32-year-old gym trainer, identified as Vijay Kumar. According to police, Vijay was under their radar as they had recently booked a case of alleged assault on his wife inside a court hall over a matrimonial dispute. They further shared that Vijay's body was found on June 9 in a vacant site in Jigani.

As per the preliminary investigation, the accused conspired to eliminate Vijay after talking about his alleged affair with a woman he met at a gym in KR Puram.

The woman's father was displeased with rumours of an extramarital affair in their village and decided to visit Vijay in his hometown Mulbagal with a gang. The group warned Vijay to stay away from the woman and issued death threats as matters got heated.

According to police, they are probing the case based on the allegations and verifying whether the murder was a planned commission or involved individuals who assisted in the killing. — BMB

Businessman alleges assault, robbery and extortion

A 32-year-old businessman and a resident of Shampura, identified as Yasin Ali, has filed a complaint with the Central Crime Branch (CCB) alleging assault by a rowdy sheeter. According to reports, Yasin was introduced to Ruban, a rowdy sheeter from K G Halli, by an acquaintance Moin. As per the complaint, Ruban, Moin, Vijay, Ibrahim and others entered Yasin's house around 8 am and picked a quarrel with him. The group assaulted the victim with an iron rod and stole four mobile phones, two smartwatches, a laptop, a car, an electric scooter and Rs 80,000 in cash with other precious items.

The latter were able to access sensitive information on his phone, such as application credentials and phone passwords. Soon after, two more people visited the victim, forcibly took his watch, assaulted him and demanded more money. Yasin told the officials that he was compelled to hand over Rs 30,000 to the accused, but Rs 56,000 was transferred from his mobile phone to an unknown individual's account without his consent. — BMB

Smuggling bust at airport

Bengaluru Customs officials have seized 427.67 grams of gold ornaments valued at Rs 64 lakh on Sunday. According to officials, the gold was concealed in the pants pocket of a passenger who was coming from Kuala Lumpur. In a similar smuggling bust, Customs officials seized 32,000 foreign cigarette sticks and 576.6 grams of gold amounting to a total of Rs 89.40 lakhs on Saturday. — BMB

Woman cheated of ₹7 lakh and used as mule account holder

Officials of East CEN Crime Police Station have arrested three men from Uttar Pradesh for cheating a woman of Rs 7 lakh on the pretext of securing her an online job. According to officials, the 21-year-old woman shared that she came across a link on social media around two years ago through which she connected with the accused.

After clicking on the link, she was contacted by the accused, who claimed they could provide her with work opportunities and an online account. They then proceeded to collect Rs 7 lakh from her and routed the charges into various bank accounts.

On getting no positive response from the trio, the woman asked for her money back. The accused then allegedly told her that they had invested the money in the share market and that she would get Rs 40,000 as monthly salary if she followed their instructions.

They then directed her to open four to five bank accounts, visited her residence, verified documents related to bank accounts, and collected other important documents, assuring her the money would be returned. With no hope of getting her money back, the woman reached out to officials.

Based on the complaint, a case under Section 66C and 66(D) of the Information Technology Act, 2000 and Section 318(4) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 has been registered. — BMB

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Sewage chokes Bengaluru lakes despite costly STPs

Despite crores spent on treatment plants, sewage continues entering and polluting Bengaluru lakes as agencies fail to coordinate diversion and maintenance

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If the quality of water in most lakes in and around Bengaluru is any indication, it seems no water body is safe from sewage. The Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has spent crores of rupees on constructing and maintaining sewage treatment plants (STPs) near lakes, but due to a lack of coordination among the lakes department, storm water drains department and BWSSB, the purpose of building these STPs is not being served.

No lake appears free from the sewage menace. Whether it is Halasuru Lake, currently under rejuvenation, Sankey Tank, Vengaiah Lake, Seegehalli Lake or Gangashetty Lake near KR Puram, sewage pollution continues to affect water quality.

Some lakes have STPs, yet sewage continues to enter them through diversion channels or storm water drains meant to carry rainwater.

At Vibhutipura Lake, an STP became operational last year, but sewage continues to flow into the lake through a storm water drain on its western side. Residents and lake activists have repeatedly raised the issue, but authorities have not diverted the sewage to the STP located about 100 metres away.

"I thought the storm water drain that carries sewage into the lake would be connected to the STP last summer, but the authorities concerned did nothing and the sewage continued to flow into the lake. What is the use of spending money on rejuvenation of the lake if the authorities fail to stop sewage from flowing into it?" asked Subrat S, a resident.

Expressing concern over the deteriorating condition of the lake, lake activist Shachi Pathak said she had already written to the authorities. "Authorities must be concerned to divert sewage that flows through the storm water drain to the STP," she said.

Seegehalli Lake also remains polluted due to sewage entering through a storm water drain despite the presence of an STP. "I have complained to the authorities several times to stop sewage from flowing into Seegehalli Lake. Most lakes in Bengaluru East are affected by the sewage menace. There is an STP near KR Puram, and it is supposed to release treated water into Vengaiah Lake, but sewage continues to flow into the lake. I believe most STPs are not serving the purpose for which they were established," said lake activist Balaji Raghotham.

Meanwhile, Bengaluru East City Corporation Executive Engineer (Lakes) Bhoopradha said maintenance of STPs is the responsibility of BWSSB. "I am aware of sewage flowing into Vibhutipura Lake. It is the responsibility of the storm water drains department and BWSSB to ensure no sewage enters the lake. I will write a letter to BWSSB about this problem," she said.

However, a BWSSB Assistant Executive Engineer said the STP near Seegehalli was constructed by the then BBMP. "I will investigate the STP related to Vibhutipura Lake. The STP near Vengaiah Lake is under development," the official said.

Poor coordination among agencies leaves several rejuvenated lakes heavily polluted

> **"I have complained to the authorities several times to stop sewage from flowing into Seegehalli Lake. Most lakes in Bengaluru East are affected by the sewage menace**
>
> –Balaji Raghotham, lake activist

BSCC orders action on Uttarahalli Lake pollution

Bengaluru South City Corporation (BSCC) Commissioner KN Ramesh visited Uttarahalli Lake on Monday and conducted a comprehensive inspection.

During the visit, local leaders informed him that stormwater drain (Rajakaluve) water and sewage were mixing and entering the lake, polluting the water and causing a foul odor. They urged him to repair the damaged retaining wall, ensure sewage flows through pipelines to the Sewage Treatment Plant (STP), and direct treated water into the stormwater drain outside the lake.

The Commissioner instructed officials to clear weeds from the lake, use bio-purification solutions to control the odor, desilt the stormwater drain, and remove the blockade across the canal to ensure smooth water flow.

Noting that STP work had been suspended, he directed BWSSB officials to replace the existing small-diameter pipe with a larger one to carry sewage directly to the treatment plant, restart the STP, and prevent sewage from entering the stormwater drain.

He also instructed officials to build a barrier to ensure only stormwater enters the lake after cleanup

Nearly half of city's garbage goes unprocessed

Around 1,775 tonnes of Bengaluru's daily waste remain unprocessed, while poor segregation and monitoring gaps continue straining city infrastructure

The city's waste management crisis continues unabated, with nearly 1,775 tonnes of garbage — around 45.7 per cent of the 3,880 tonnes generated daily — remaining unprocessed. Although civic authorities claim to handle about 4,105 tonnes of waste through various processing facilities, a substantial volume continues to pile up, raising concerns about public health and environmental sustainability.

Among the unprocessed waste, wet waste forms the largest share at 677 tonnes (38.1%), while dry waste accounts for 547 tonnes (30.8%). The remaining waste falls under other categories. A significant portion is allegedly dumped on vacant lands along the city's outskirts, in stormwater drains and rajakaluves, heightening fears of pollution, water contamination and health risks.

Officials attribute the problem partly to inefficiencies in waste collection. Bengaluru relies on around 3,020 auto-tippers and 400 compactors for door-to-door collection, with each auto-tipper servicing between 150 and 1,000 households. However, the absence of GPS tracking in most collection vehicles makes monitoring difficult, allowing some vehicles to skip assigned routes and collection points. Authorities also cite poor segregation at source, resulting in a growing volume of mixed waste that strains processing capacity.

Mixed waste volumes continue overwhelming existing treatment facilities

To address the issue, the Greater Bengaluru Authority and Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Ltd, along with five city corporations under GBA limits, are preparing a comprehensive overhaul of the waste management system, including new processing facilities and improvements in waste collection and transportation. Discussions are also under way to expand waste-processing infrastructure through the PPP model.

–BMB

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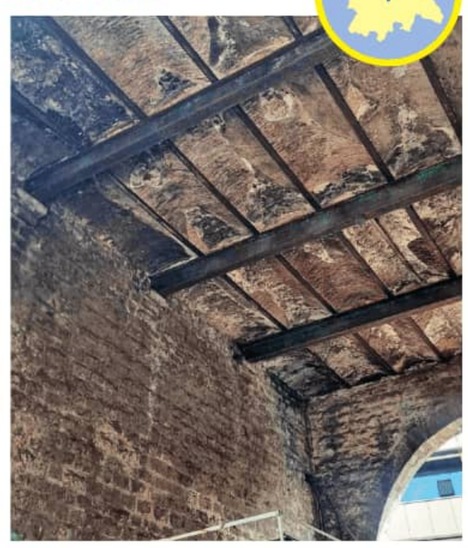
Road hazard
Rajarajeshwari Nagar

Roads excavated for pipeline connections to new buildings on Double Road in Rajarajeshwari Nagar have been left unrepaired, creating hazardous craters for commuters.

Unsafe stretch
KR Market



The deteriorating south gate at KR Market's rear entrance, riddled with cracks and structural damage, poses a significant safety hazard to thousands of daily commuters.

Pothole peril
Kammanahalli

The stretch of Kammanahalli Main Road near Jal Vayu Vihar has fallen into disrepair, making travel difficult and unsafe for commuters.

Disabled woman can undergo hysterectomy

The Karnataka High Court has granted permission for a 23-year-old woman with severe intellectual and developmental disabilities to undergo a hysterectomy, ruling that the procedure is justified in view of her medical condition and is in her best interests.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj passed the order on a petition filed by the woman's parents, who sought judicial approval for the surgery. The court relied on a report submitted by a multidisciplinary medical board after assessing her medical history, disabilities and overall condition.

According to the petition, the woman has severe intellectual disability, cerebral palsy, global developmental delay and a seizure disorder. Her parents told the court that she requires constant care and cannot independently manage personal hygiene, particularly during menstruation, leading to recurring health issues and considerable caregiving challenges for the family.

The medical board, comprising specialists in psychiatry, neurology, obstetrics and gynaecology, assessed her IQ at 36 and recorded 75% permanent disability. It noted that her functional and social age corresponded to that of a child aged about five years and four months.

The board concluded that a hysterectomy would improve her quality of life and recommended the procedure. Accepting the findings, the court clarified that the surgery was not for sterilisation or any eugenic purpose but to address genuine medical, health and hygiene concerns. The court held that the procedure was necessary to protect her welfare, dignity and long-term well-being. —BMB

IN COURT

KSRTC accident: Damages must be paid

The Karnataka High Court has upheld a compensation award granted to the family of a man who died in a road accident involving a KSRTC bus, observing that claimants in proceedings under the Motor Vehicles Act are not required to establish a victim's employment "beyond reasonable doubt" in the manner expected in criminal cases.

A Division Bench comprising Justice Jayant Banerji and Justice Tara Vitasta Ganju dismissed objections raised by the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) against the Motor Accident Claims Tribunal award. Records show the accident occurred in 2016 near Jakribettu in Bantwal Kasba village of Dakshina Kannada district. KSRTC bus travelling towards B C Road from Belthangady side allegedly moved to the wrong side while overtaking and hit 31-year-old K J Sushanth Rai riding towards Belthangady, who sustained grievous injuries and died en route to hospital.

On March 3, 2020, the Motor Accident Claims Tribunal in Mangaluru awarded compensation of Rs 22.4 lakh with six per cent annual interest. KSRTC challenged reliance on the salary certificate, arguing that the employer Rajatha Distributors failed to prove business activity, while claimants relied on the testimony of partner Gangadhara Shetty and the Supreme Court ruling in Rajwati. "In these circumstances, this court finds no reason to interdict the findings of the tribunal," the Bench held, finding no reason for interference.

The court reiterated that tribunal must assess income evidence practically to ensure fair compensation awards. —BMB

Kogilu Road crater filling seems to be as tough as rocket science

Potholes and damaged stretches on Kogilu Main Road continue to disrupt traffic, leaving motorists frustrated despite repeated complaints

Motorists demand urgent repairs as recurring potholes, dust and unsafe conditions continue despite repeated complaints to authorities

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Thousands of motorists, who have been facing a lot of problems commuting on Kogilu Main Road, were amused and also shocked when Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda pulled up Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) engineers for recurring pothole problems. They wonder how the minister, who was the Revenue Minister in Siddaramaiah's Cabinet, could not fix pothole problems in Byatarayanapura Assembly constituency, especially on Kogilu Main Road.

"The potholes and craters on Kogilu Main Road have become a hurdle to the smooth flow of vehicular traffic. I do not know why the authorities concerned have failed to fix these problems all these years. No developmental works, including asphalting of the road, have been taken up. I want the authorities to visit the neighbouring Yelahanka Assembly constituency to know how the roads are being maintained," said Mahesh T, a resident of Kogilu.

He blamed the Bengaluru North City Corporation (BNCC) engineers for not filling potholes and craters despite repeated reminders. "The BWSSB contractor dug up the road to fix a water leakage issue, but the road is yet to be restored. Neither the BNCC ward engineer nor the BWSSB engineer has bothered to restore the road for the benefit of motorists, especially two-wheeler riders," he said.

Coming down heavily on the BNCC engineers for not filling potholes and craters, Abdul Samad, a social activist, said that he fell down when his two-wheeler skidded while navigating potholes on the road. "I have already informed the BNCC engineers and the local MLA about the bad condition of the road. I want the authorities to take measures to fill up potholes and craters as early as possible to ensure there are no road accidents," said Abdul Samad.

Appealing to the authorities to fix the problems, Fariyal, a homemaker, said the condition of Kogilu Main Road has been extremely poor for the last two years. "Due to the excessive dust generated by the damaged road, many residents are experiencing eye irritation and other health issues. Riding a two-wheeler has become difficult and unsafe, and even walking along the road towards Kogilu is a challenge. Despite repeated concerns from local residents, the condition of the road remains unchanged. We sincerely request the concerned authorities to take immediate action to repair the road and ensure the safety, health, and convenience of the public," she said.

However, BNCC Executive Engineer (Byatarayanapura) Sachin Gowda said that he has already taken measures to fill up potholes and craters on Kogilu Main Road. "The authorities decided on white-topping the road. So, we could not asphalt the road. I will ensure all the potholes and craters are filled up shortly," the executive engineer said.

Daily commuters say damaged stretches and poor maintenance turning commutes into ordeal, raising safety corncerns and accountability issuses

IN BRIEF

BWCC targets 1,000 km walkable footpaths

Months after concerns over Bengaluru's crumbling and encroached footpaths were repeatedly flagged by citizens and highlighted in Bangalore Mirror's coverage of the city's pedestrian crisis, the Bengaluru West City Corporation (BWCC) has launched an ambitious drive to make 1,000 km of footpaths walkable within a month.

The BWCC1000K campaign, launched under the direction of Commissioner Dr Rajendra K.V., aims to improve 10 km of footpaths in each ward by removing obstacles, repairing damaged stretches, and creating safer walkways for pedestrians, especially children and senior citizens.

The civic body said it improved 174.55 km of footpaths across 97 wards in the first week. Greater Bengaluru Authority Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao directed officials to submit weekly progress reports and complete the works in mission mode. Engineering teams have also begun ward-level inspections and repairs to ensure safer and more accessible pedestrian infrastructure across the city. —BMB

Indiranagar residents map trees, raise concerns

Residents of Indiranagar undertook an independent Tree Survey on Sunday morning to document the existing greenery and better understand the potential environmental impact of the B-SMILE proposed project—an elevated corridor connecting Old Madras Road and Silk Board via 80 Feet Road, CMH Road and Indiranagar 100 Feet Road.

More than 100 residents surveyed the proposed alignment and have so far identified 749 trees from 1,500 images, including Big Leaf Mahogany, Gulmohur, Rain Tree, Indian Almond and Indian Cork Tree. Preliminary findings suggest nearly 90 per cent of the documented trees are healthy.

The DPR states that 89 trees may be cut and 70 trimmed, while around 235 trees fall within the construction width. Conducted using Nature Ark's Urban Tree Map app, the survey also recorded several bird species. The findings will be submitted to authorities to aid decision-making on the project. —BMB

Mandalpatti reopens after four months, reviving Kodagu's tourism lifeline

Road repair works completed, entry resumes from 6 am, bringing relief to tourists and jeep operators alike

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

One of Kodagu's most sought-after tourist attractions, Mandalpatti, is welcoming visitors once again after remaining closed for nearly four months. The restriction imposed on tourists to facilitate road development works has now been lifted.

The picturesque hilltop destination, known for its panoramic views and mist-covered landscapes, was shut to tourists in February after authorities-initiated repairs on the severely damaged stretch of road beyond the Mandalpatti gate. The route, widely used by jeep operators and tourists, had deteriorated significantly and required urgent attention.

According to officials, road development works, including levelling uneven surfaces and laying stone paving in required sections, have now been completed. As a result, tourists can once again travel to the popular viewpoint, often referred to as "Mugilupete" after it was portrayed in the 2008 film Gaalipata, known for its breathtaking cloud-covered scenery.

Officials said the reopening comes with revised timings. Following concerns raised by local residents about heavy jeep traffic causing inconvenience to buses and other vehicles during the morning hours, discussions were held involving forest officials, jeep drivers, villagers and local representatives.

Based on directions issued by Madikeri MLA Dr Mantar Gowda, the Forest Department has agreed to open the gate from 6 am onwards. Jeep operators have also assured authorities that they will maintain discipline and avoid reckless driving. Deputy Conservator of Forests Abhishek said the repair work along the Mandalpatti route had been completed and tourist restrictions would be withdrawn from Friday. He confirmed that the gate would remain open from 6 am as per the MLA's instructions.

Reopening comes after delays extended closure far beyond initial 15 days due to repair work and controversies reported

Cloud-kissed viewpoints are accessible again as visitors return to the beloved hill destination, while local drivers and businesses look forward to recovering lost earnings after a challenging season

The closure lasted much longer than initially announced. Authorities had earlier stated that the tourist spot would remain closed for only 15 days. However, delays in completing the work led to repeated extensions, stretching the restriction to nearly four months.

The shutdown also followed controversy involving a jeep driver who allegedly charged excessive fares to a tourist. The incident triggered widespread discussion and prompted the police department to summon jeep operators and issue warnings regarding their conduct. Soon after, the Forest Department proceeded with the road repair project and restricted tourist access.

The prolonged closure dealt a significant blow to hundreds of jeep drivers who depend on tourism for their livelihood. The four-month shutdown coincided with the peak summer tourism season, resulting in substantial income loss for operators.

Your Connect

personal

CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Manjunatha R. S. R/at No. 113, Rama krishna Math, Swami Vivekananda Road, Ulsoor, Bangalore 560008 have changed my name to **Swami Satyavidananda** for all purposes vide affidavit dt. 08.06.2026 sworn before Notary L. Puttaraju, Bangalore.

I, ANEES UR REHMAN, S/o Atheeq Ur Rehman, R/o No.68/294/4, Door No.A-7, 3rd Floor, 8th B Main, Virat nagar, Bommanahalli, Ward No. 175, Bangalore – 560068, do hereby declare's that my correct name is ANEES UR REHMAN and not ANEES UR REHAMAN, as mentioned wrongly in my SSLC Marks card, vide affidavit dated 04.04.2026, sworn before notary G. Dayanada, Bangalore.

I LYDIA LEELAVATHI . S, residing at Flat C008, C block ground floor, SLV vajra, Horamavu,(Nr old age home)Bangalore;- 560016. Clarify that my name is wrongly mentioned as LYDIA LEELAVATHI in my daughters birth certificate. Both names belong to one and the same person. Hence forth my correct name should be known as LYDIA LEELAVATHI .S for all purposes.

I Prameela Mohan Kumar, W/O, Mohan Kumar.K.L., Residing At, No 2/1, Sri Rama Nilaya, basappa Road, shanthi Nagar, Bengaluru 560027, have Changed My Name to Prameela Kadur Lokesh for all purposes.

I, Hassan Amreliwala, aged 19 Years Old, Son of Hatim Hakimuddin Amreliwala, aged 49 years old, Residing at Canopy Colounge, Haines Road, Coles Park, Frazer Town Bangalore 560005, hereby declare that my name is wrongly Spelled in my Passport as Hasan Amreliwala (Passport No. Y7345520). My correct name is spelled Hassan Amreliwala for all future reference vide Affidavit dated 16th June 2026 sworn before the notary Prasad Shetty KB, Bangalore.

I, Shridevi G. Tophakhane (Old Name), D/o Bheemasen acharya Hangal and W/o Gireesh Tophakhane, aged about 53 years, residing at No.156, 2nd Cross, Krishna Garden Incity Layout, Doddakammanahalli Road, Near South Park Apartment, Chikkakammanahalli, Gottigere Post, Bengaluru - 560 083, have changed my name to SHRIDEVI TOPHAKHANE (New Name) vide affidavit dated 18.06.2026 sworn before Notary Aravind Patil GG.

I, SYEEDA HUMEERA, W/o Atheeq Ur Rehman, R/o No. A-7, 3rd Floor, 8th B Main, Virat nagar, Bommanahalli, Ward No. 175, Bangalore – 560068, have changed my name from SYEEDA HUMEERA to SYEEDA HUMEERA REHMAN, vide affidavit dated 04.04.2026, sworn before notary G. Dayanada, Bangalore.

I, Shankar M S, S/o Late. Siddaramegowda, R/at No.08, Mathrushree Nilaya, 3rd Main, 2nd Cross, Janaganga Nagar, Opposite PVP School, Banga lore Viswavidalya, Bengaluru-560056, here by declare that SHANKAR M S & SHANKARA M S both the names belongs to me only, vide affidavit dt: 22.06. 2026 Notary Devaraja E, B.lore.

I, Aiswariya Muthukumar C/o Jagan S R/o No.T8 3rd floor, Rashi Pride Apartment, BTM 6th Stage, near Sai Baba Temple, Bangalore South, Bengaluru, Karnataka- 560076. Changed my name as M Aiswarya for all future purposes

I, Chidananda Bylakere Kumar, Aged about 45 years, residing at Byaladakere, Maligehalli Post, Kasaba Hobli, Chikkanayanahalli, Tumkur 572214. I have changed my name to CHIDANANDA BYALADAKERE KUMAR vide affidavit dated : 18/06/2026 Before Notary S R THULASIKRISHNA.

I, Abhigyan Ankur Agarwal, R/o Flat No A-211, Ozone Evergreens, Harlur Road, Off Sarjapur Road, Opposite Families Mart, Bangalore South, PO: Hsr Layout, DIST: Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560102, have changed my name to Abhigyan Agarwal.

I, Harshiya Banu Iliyaz Pasha, W/o Kashif Ulla Beig H A, R/at #108, 1st Floor, D S Max Seagull Nest, Bethal Nagar, K R Puram, Virgonagar Post, Bengaluru-560049, have changed my name to HARSHIYA BANU, vide affidavit dt: 20.06.2026 before notary Meer Hassan, Bangalore

I Ramamoorthi Sampath Reddy S/O, Sampath Reddy R/o N0-16,behind Prakash Road Lines,1st Stage, 2nd Phase,peenya, Bengaluru-560058 have changed my name to Ramamurthy Sampath Reddy.

I, Swapna Anand Kumar @ Sapna Ranka Anand R/o No.1765/1, Ranka nivas, Main road, Mandimohalla, Mysuru 570021 have changed my name to Sapna Anand Kumar (Sapna A) I shall be called by this name for all purposes

I, Nazara Fathima Mohammed Adil, D/o Mohammed Adil, R/o No-G01, SV Homes 1ST Cross Road, Sarvabhouma Nagar, Bilekahalli, Bengaluru-560076. have changed my name to Nazara Fathima Adil for all Purposes.

I, Spoorthi D/O Shridhar Bhat born on 20-03-2007 residing at #24, MEGLayout, Bengaluru - 16 have changed my name to Spoorthi Bhat vide affidavit dated 19-06-2026 at Bengaluru

I, Varsha J Joseph, Resident Flat Number 603, Tower 29, 6th Floor, L & T Raintree Boulevard, Bellary Road, Byatarayanapura Bengaluru-560092. Changed my name from Varsha Sharma to Varsha J Joseph to all further purposes (J full form is Jerish).

I, kushawaha shalu keshavprasad, D/o keshavprasad kushwaha, R/o G-158 bapa sitaram socity more surat gujarat - 394517, have changed my name to salu kushwaha. both names are mine.

I Pooja Ravishankar Poul, W/o, Deepak.C.M., Residing At, No 18/1, Shanthi Nilaya, Pallekamama Nagar Road, B/H Decathlon Chikkajala, Bengaluru 562157 have Changed Mlny name to Pooja Ravishankar, for all purposes.

I S Parimala, D/o Santhana Krishna born on 28-Aug-1969. R/o 1456 37th C Cross 11th Main 4th T Block Jayanagar Bangalore 560041, shall henceforth be known as S Parimala Devi for all purpose vide affidavit date 09-Jun-2026

I, Sumaiya Riyaz Ahmed R/o No 27 East Street Neelasandra Viveknagar Post bangalore 560047 Have changed my name to Sumaiya Iffat for all Purposes.

I am Mahesh Kumar, s/o poojappa, r/o Rajajinagar Bengaluru, I have changed my name from Mahesh Kumar poojappa to mahesh kumar

I, Subbe Gowda S/O, Narayanappa R/o Basettihalli Bengaluru Rural 561203 have changed my name to N Subbegowda for all purposes.

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City 2nd in country in terms of road accidents

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

which reported 5,657 crashes. The city reported nearly 1,000 more accidents than Hyderabad, which recorded 3,785 cases, and over 1,000 more than Chennai, which reported 3,762 accidents. Bengaluru also recorded substantially higher accident numbers than Mumbai, Jaipur and Kochi. Despite a reduction of 205 accidents compared to 2023, the city continues to remain among the worst performers nationally. Bengaluru was among the top cities to report a decline in accidents last year, but the reduction has had little impact on its overall ranking.

Road deaths remain a major concern. As per the report, Bengaluru reported 894 fatalities in 2024, second only to Delhi's 1,551. The city's death toll exceeded that of Jaipur (860), Raipur (594), Jabalpur (589), Agra (586) and Lucknow (576). The long-term trend is even more worrying. Bengaluru recorded 646 road deaths in 2020. In just four years, fatalities have increased by 248, marking a rise of 38.4 per cent. During the same period, the number of accidents increased from 3,233 to 4,769, a jump of 47.5 per cent.

Road safety snapshot 2024

- Total accidents: **4,769** (2nd in India)
- Total fatalities: **894** (2nd in India)
- Total injuries: **4,022** (3rd in India)
- One accident every **110** minutes
- One injury every **2 hours 11** minutes
- One death every **9 hours 48** minutes
- **13** accidents every day
- Nearly **3** deaths every day
- **5.81%** share of accidents among India's million-plus cities
- **47.5%** rise in accidents since 2020
- **38.4%** rise in fatalities since 2020
- **205** fewer accidents compared to 2023

Thousands also continue to suffer life-altering injuries. Bengaluru recorded 4,022 injured persons in road crashes during 2024, the third-highest figure among million-plus cities after Delhi and Jabalpur. The numbers point to the significant burden road accidents place on hospitals, emergency services and families across the city.

A traffic expert said, "The report suggests that despite investments in infrastructure, enforcement drives and awareness campaigns, Bengaluru's roads continue to exact a heavy human cost. With one accident every 110 minutes and a life lost every 10 hours, the data serves as a stark reminder that road safety remains one of the city's biggest urban challenges."

Cabo Verde scripts history

Cabo Verde players applaud fans after the 2-2 draw

Team makes multiple records in 2-2 stalemate with Uruguay

As FIFA World Cup debutants Cabo Verde produced a clinical performance to hold two-time champions Uruguay to a 2-2 draw in a thrilling clash of the ongoing World Cup 2026 edition at Miami Stadium on Sunday, June 21 (local time), Uruguayan Fernando Muslera (40 years and 5 days) and Verde Vozinha (40 years and 18 days), from Cape Verde, became the first pair of players over 40 to start in a WC fixture.

Following Uruguay's clash against Cape Verde, substitutes have now scored 23 goals at the tournament, the third-highest tally at a World Cup since 1966, behind only 2014 (32) and 2022 (30), excluding own goals, as per Opta.

Cabo Verde is the first nation since Senegal in 2002 to go undefeated in their first two World Cup matches (2D), while their tally of just five fouls is the lowest recorded by any team through two games at a World Cup since 1966.

Cabo Verde also became the first team since at least 1966 to score their maiden FIFA World Cup goal directly from a free-kick. Remarkably, it came from just their second shot on target of the tournament.

Cabo Verde made history in the 21st minute when Kevin Pina scored the nation's first-ever FIFA World Cup goal. The midfielder curled in a long-range free-kick that beat Uruguay goalkeeper Fernando Muslera and gave the tournament newcomers a surprise lead.

The result marks another landmark moment for Cabo Verde in their maiden FIFA World Cup campaign, keeping Group H finely poised heading into the final round of fixtures.

Spain currently leads the group with four points from two matches, while Uruguay are second and Cabo Verde third, both level on two points.

—ANI

'Always with God'

Spain star Yamal celebrates FIFA match win against Saudi Arabia

Spain registered a remarkable victory against Saudi Arabia on Sunday amid the ongoing FIFA edition, with Lamine Yamal scoring in the 10th minute to help the European nation secure a dominating 4-0 victory.

After the win, Yamal posted a celebratory note, expressing gratitude to God.

"I'm here. Vamos Espana!! Gracias a todos por el apoyo, siempre con dios (Let's go, Spain!! Thank you all for the support, always with God)," he captioned the post.

The goal made Yamal the eighth-youngest scorer in men's World Cup history and marked another milestone in the rapid rise of one of football's brightest young talents.Yamal, who had been limited to a brief appearance against Cape Verde as he continued his recovery from a hamstring injury, was substituted at halftime

Lamine Yamal #19 of Spain celebrates with teammate Rodri #16 after scoring his team's first goal

with Spain already holding a commanding 3-0 lead.

However, De la Fuente dismissed any concerns over the winger's fitness after the match. "He would have played for longer, but considering the result and the match was under control, we considered his contribution was enough," De la Fuente said.

"The next game, we could have him for a full match. He's back, and he's fit," he said. Yamal also highlighted the trust he shares with his coach.

"I have a very good relationship [with De la Fuente]; there is complete trust. He asks how I'm doing and how I'm feeling, and I told him I'm ready to play -- I'm here for Spain and will always give 100 per cent," he told TVE, as per ESPN. Spain entered the match under pressure after being heavily criticised for failing to break down Cape Verde, but there were no such problems against Saudi Arabia, as De la Fuente's side produced a clinical attacking display.

The Spain coach admitted the criticism after the opening game had affected his players but said it also served as motivation.

"When I said they were fired up, I was talking about a natural reaction," De la Fuente said.

"Their pride was hurt. The remarks they hear make them react, and that's good," he said.

—ANI

When Salah struck

Egypt secure first-ever World Cup win in 92 years

Mohamed Salah struck the decisive goal as Egypt came from behind to beat New Zealand 3-1 and claim their first FIFA World Cup victory since making their debut 92 years and 25 days ago.

Salah not only scored the winning goal against New Zealand but also became the first Egyptian to score in two editions of the global showpiece. Moreover, he became the oldest player to score for Egypt at 34 years and 6 days, surpassing Magdy Abdelghany, who was 30 years and 320 days old when he netted against the Netherlands in 1990.

With Iran and Belgium drawing earlier in the day, Egypt now head into the last group stage match with a two- point lead in Group G.

New Zealand started aggressively at BC Place Vancouver, and after Sarpreet Singh and Elijah Just having already threatened, Finn Surman gave the All Whites a deserved lead with a bullet of a header from a corner in the 15th minute.

This was the first time Egypt had ever gone in behind at halftime in a FIFA World Cup fixture.

Salah and Emam Ashour both went close before half time as Egypt went in search of an equaliser, and Salah was denied again by Max Crocombe in the first minute of the second period.

Egypt's Mohamed Salah celebrates after the match

Egypt goalkeeper Mostafa Shobeir prevented New Zealand from doubling their lead shortly afterwards with a terrific save from Callum McCowatt's flicked header, and Zico then pulled Hossam Hassan's side back into the game with a free header in the 58th minute.

—IANS

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Iran's Alireza Beiranvand in action

Iran leave emotional locker-room note

Iran's national football team left an emotional message for supporters in the locker room of SoFi Stadium in Los Angeles after their FIFA World Cup 2026 draw against Belgium, thanking fans for their unwavering support and expressing pride in their performances. According to the Iranian news agency ISNA, the team left a handwritten note for fans in Los Angeles following their second group-stage match.

"From the ancient Persia of thousands of years ago to the civilised Iran of today, the spirit of Iran remains alive and steadfast," the note read.

"We came to Los Angeles with pride, competed with honour and leave with dignity. Thank you, Los Angeles, for your hospitality. And thank you to every Iranian who gave their heart, voice and soul for Iran throughout these 180 minutes. May peace, respect and friendship prevail among all nations," the message added.

Iran's gesture came after a resilient start to their World Cup campaign. Team Melli opened Group G with an entertaining 2-2 draw against New Zealand before earning another point in a hard-fought goalless draw against Belgium. The stalemate with Belgium was largely shaped by the outstanding performance of goalkeeper Alireza Beiranvand, who produced a series of crucial saves to keep the European side at bay.

Germany suffer major as Schlotterbeck ruled out

Germany have been dealt a significant blow ahead of the FIFA World Cup knockout stages after defender Nico Schlotterbeck was ruled out of the remainder of the tournament with a serious ankle injury.

The German team centre-back sustained the injury during Germany's 2-1 victory over the Ivory Coast, forcing head coach Julian Nagelsmann into an untimely defensive reshuffle at a crucial stage of the competition.

According to Goal.com, an MRI scan revealed medial ligament damage in Schlotterbeck's left ankle, an injury that typically requires around two months of recovery.

The defender initially received treatment and attempted to play on, but was unable to continue and was substituted at half-time after the full extent of the injury became apparent.

Red card flush

The 2026 FIFA World Cup has already matched the combined red card tally of the 2018 and 2022 editions, with the total number of dismissals reaching eight, according to Fox Sports.

The latest came during Belgium's clash against Iran on Sunday, when Nathan Ngoy was shown a straight red card in the 66th minute for bringing down Iran forward Mehdi Taremi. The match eventually ended in a 0-0 draw, with Belgium playing the final stages with 10 men.

According to Fox Sports, the current tally of eight red cards is double the four red cards recorded in each of the previous two World Cups, 2018 and 2022. Of the eight dismissals so far in the ongoing tournament, six have been straight red cards.

Neymar sighted

Brazil star Neymar Jr. has raised hopes of a long-awaited FIFA World Cup 2026 return after sharing images from training ahead of the Selecao's decisive Group C clash against Scotland.

Brazil's Neymar Jr. during training

The 34-year-old forward posted a series of photographs from a training session on X on Sunday, accompanied by the message, "Thank you, my God. So incredibly happy!!"

The post offered the strongest indication yet that Neymar is nearing a return from the calf injury that has kept him out of Brazil's opening two matches at the tournament in North America.

Neymar was absent as Brazil opened their campaign with a 1-1 draw against Morocco before securing a comfortable 3-0 victory over Haiti, a result that lifted Carlo Ancelotti's side to the top of Group C and left them well placed to advance to the knockout rounds..

—ANI

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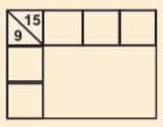
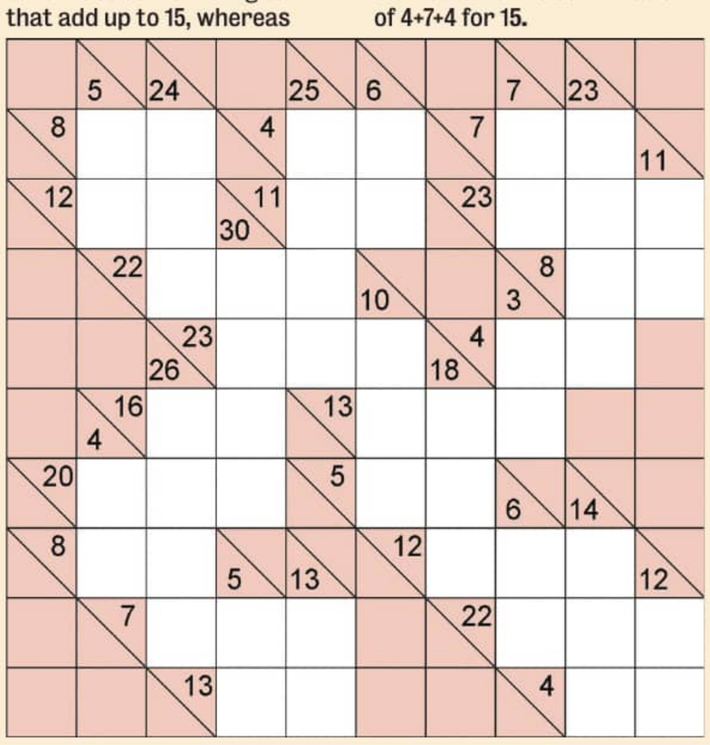
Kakuro

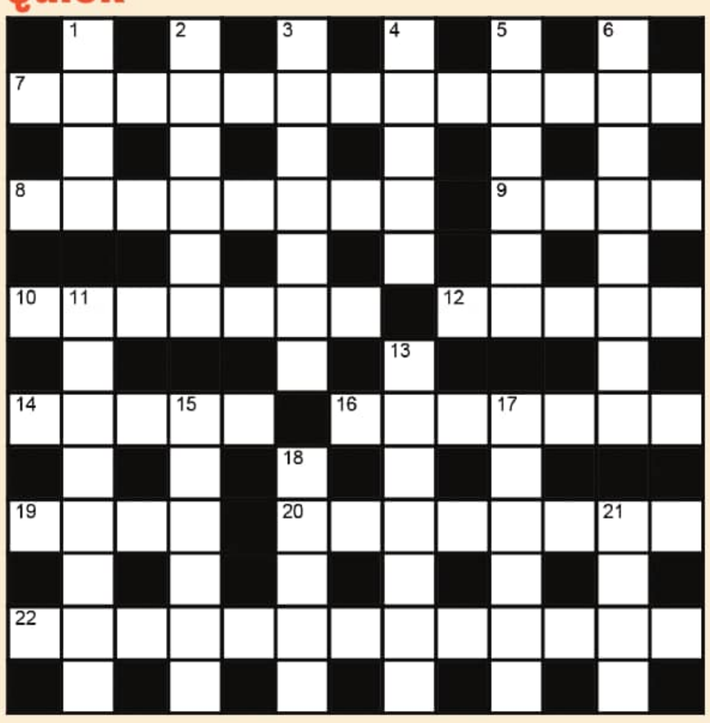
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Rhombus for one? (13)
8 Rolled about in mud? (8)
9 Kinds, types or sorts (4)
10 Barbed whale-killer (7)
12 An old Irish alphabet–"Ham go" anagram? (5)
14 Quagmire (5)
16 Wine merchant (7)
19 Fiddling emperor (4)
20 Emotions (8)
22 Late shehnai maestro from Varanasi (9,4)

DOWN

1 Mr. Patekar of Bollywood (4)
2 Summon or bring back to mind? (4,2)
3 Veneered board (7)
4 Escape by artifice (5)
5 Maturing or growing old (6)
6 Picnic event (4,4)
11 Educational (8)
13 Market near Brigade Road (7)
15 Tempests (6)
17 Uses one's mind (6)
18 Jack __ __.... and master of none? (2,3)
21 Very happy (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: O EQUALS Y

IFL RDGL HTLAVXVA ODJ YGL,
IFL RDGL ELULGYQ VI'QQ KL.

Linemaro

I need you more than my phone needs a charger

Mindchow

A thing is worth what it can do for you, not what you choose to pay for it

Joke of the day

There's no place like home... that's why I never went back

Loop

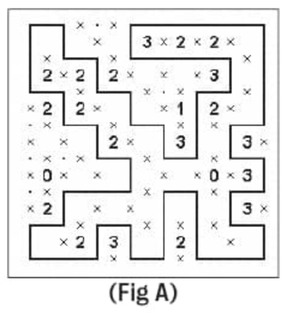
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

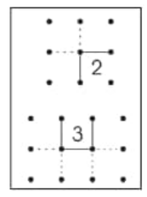
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

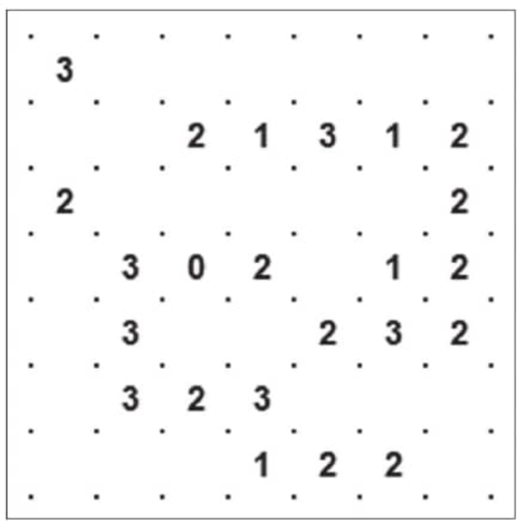
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



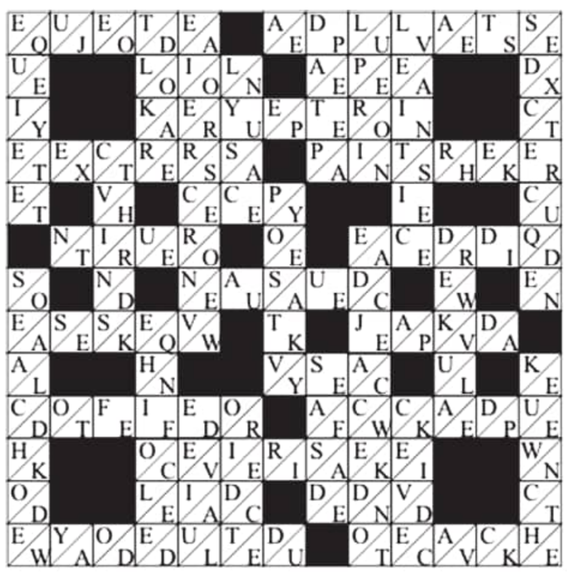
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3	4	5
6		F		
7				
8				
9				

ACROSS

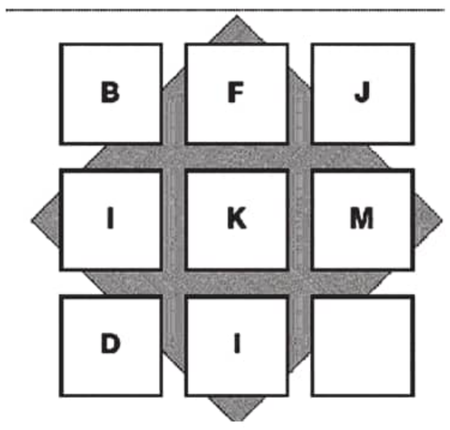
1 Trams; 6 Far we;
7 Tiny U; 8 Or sin;
9 Egret

DOWN

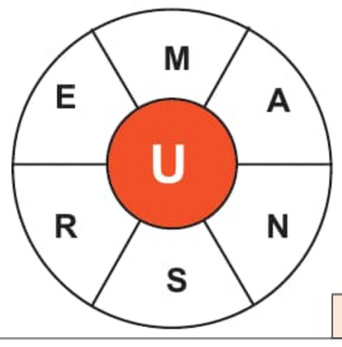
1 W guns; 2 Roman;
3 Feria; 4 I tree;
5 St Try

Mensapuzzle

Which letter goes in the empty box?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

10 Average; **12** Good; **14** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

		4	5		3	8		
	2						5	
7			2		8			9
4				6				2
	9	5				4	8	
1				8				5
8			6		1			3
	3						6	
		9	7		2	1		

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 12

4 4 5 7

Medium = 4

2 3 3 8

Hard = 16

2 4 6 4

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

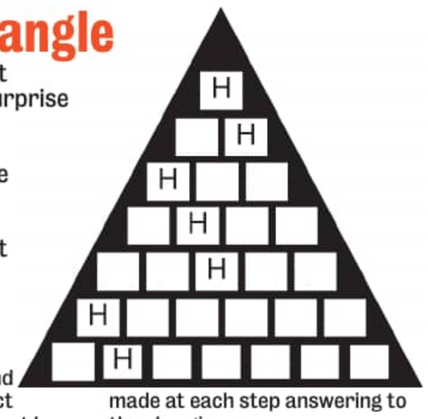
Differences: 1. Dog's leg is moved. 2. Trees are moved. 3. Cap is different. 4. Sled is longer. 5. Spot on dog's back is larger. 6. Boot is different.

Riddler

One behind, and one between, One stands on a hill. Three on three, and three around, A test of strength and skill. What is it?

Alpha triangle

1 Planck's constant
2 Interjection of surprise
3 All the rage
4 Ruined
5 Spirit of a culture
6 Entertained
7 Abruptly cut off online contact



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye

I NEEDS TO GO OUT INTO THE WORLD AND FIND MESELF!
I HASTA FIND ME IDENTITY!
I YAM GOING TO LEAVE HOME !
SNIFF!
?
RIGHT AFTER DINNER I WILL PACK!
9-20
popeye.com
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Bizarrotrip

Dist. by King Features
Wayno® & Piraro. 3-12-26
I keep having that dream where I'm being chased by an Irishman wearing a pointy hat.
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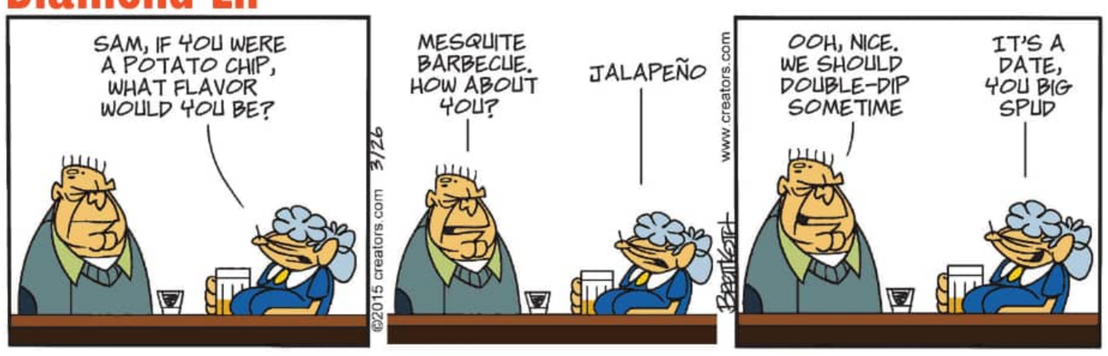
Diamond Lil


SAM, IF YOU WERE A POTATO CHIP, WHAT FLAVOR WOULD YOU BE?
MESQUITE BARBECUE. HOW ABOUT YOU?
JALAPEÑO
OOH, NICE. WE SHOULD DOUBLE-DIP SOMETIME
IT'S A DATE, YOU BIG SPUD
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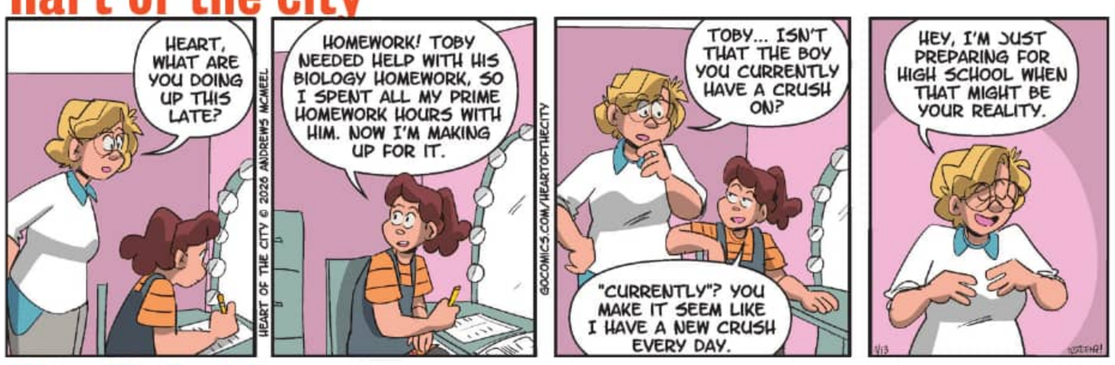
Hart of the city


HEART, WHAT ARE YOU DOING UP THIS LATE?
HOMEWORK! TOBY NEEDED HELP WITH HIS BIOLOGY HOMEWORK, SO I SPENT ALL MY PRIME HOMEWORK HOURS WITH HIM. NOW I'M MAKING UP FOR IT.
TOBY... ISN'T THAT THE BOY YOU CURRENTLY HAVE A CRUSH ON?
"CURRENTLY"? YOU MAKE IT SEEM LIKE I HAVE A NEW CRUSH EVERY DAY.
HEY, I'M JUST PREPARING FOR HIGH SCHOOL WHEN THAT MIGHT BE YOUR REALITY.
HEART OF THE CITY © 2026 ANDREWS MCMEEL
@GOCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft

IS EVERYONE READY?
HOLD ON... WE'RE STILL WAITING FOR...
JUSTICE OF THE PEACE
3-12
YOU SAID YOU WANTED A CHOIR...
AND YOU'VE GOT ONE!
© 2026 Mediagraphics, Inc. Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication
BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts

HEY, EARL— WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?
BIRDS — BUT I DON'T SEE ANY.
3-12
THEY ALL SHOULD BE RETURNING FROM THE SOUTH SOON...
SHMAYBE THEY CHARTERED A BUS.

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR

If it's your birthday today

An old friendship evolves into something deeper, catch you pleasantly off guard. In your career, focusing on solo tasks yields much higher results than chaotic group work today. A financial investment in tech or green energy shows great long-term potential. Prioritize your emotional well-being by setting firm boundaries with dramatic individuals who drain your vibrant energy.

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20

Lower your expectations of others today and allow people room to breathe peacefully. Understanding individual strengths and weaknesses creates healthier relationships, smoother teamwork, emotional balance, and stronger connections built on patience and compassion.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20

Remember you are never truly alone during difficult moments today. Loved ones genuinely care about your wellbeing and want supporting you. Open your heart, accept help gracefully, and strengthen meaningful emotional bonds around you.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21

Seeing situations through another person's perspective changes your understanding beautifully today. Listening carefully to partners, friends, or colleagues helps you make wiser decisions while strengthening relationships through empathy, patience, emotional awareness, and compassion.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23

Speaking honestly becomes especially important today, even if expressing yourself feels uncomfortable initially. Others cannot understand your feelings without communication. Share your thoughts confidently, trust your voice, and allow meaningful understanding to develop naturally.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

Recent delays or missing resources finally begin aligning positively for you today. Something previously stalled now gains momentum beautifully. Stay confident, embrace fresh opportunities, and trust that progress is unfolding exactly when needed most.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23

Your instincts remain incredibly reliable today, especially regarding people and uncertain situations around you. Trust those intuitive feelings completely. If something feels wrong, protect your peace immediately instead of forcing unnecessary explanations afterward.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22

Stressful energy surrounding you finally begins clearing beautifully today, bringing peace and emotional relief. Obstacles gradually disappear while situations improve naturally. Enjoy this calmer atmosphere, relax fully, and appreciate the balance returning into life.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22

Not everything appearing attractive today carries genuine value beneath the surface. Research opportunities carefully before committing yourself emotionally or financially. Looking deeper prevents disappointment later while helping you make smarter, safer, and more rewarding decisions.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22

Progress comes naturally today when following your genuine interests and passions wholeheartedly. Avoid making choices through peer pressure or outside expectations. Staying authentic helps your confidence grow while creating rewarding experiences and meaningful personal success.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20

Some people may challenge or criticize you today unnecessarily, though responding defensively wastes valuable energy. Ignore distractions confidently and continue focusing on your goals. Quiet consistency proves your strength far better than explanations ever could.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19

Experimenting outside your usual field feels tempting today, though focusing on familiar strengths benefits you more currently. Concentrating fully on existing responsibilities prevents wasted energy while helping you achieve greater productivity, clarity, and success overall.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20

Social invitations and exciting gatherings may distract you from important responsibilities today. Enjoy connecting with others, but maintain balance carefully. Prioritising work before pleasure keeps everything organized while supporting long-term success and personal satisfaction beautifully.

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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M

√[9³]
√[9²×9]
√[9²]/√[9]
9×3
27

RIDDLER

Baseball

STRIKE OUT

QUICK

MENSA PUZZLE

N Working in rows, letters advance by 4, 2 and 5 places.

BULL'S EYE

amuse, anus, manure, menu, menus, muse, nurse, rune, ruse, serum, sure, SURNAME, urea, user

SUDOKU

9	1	4	5	7	3	8	2	6
3	2	8	9	1	6	7	5	4
7	5	6	2	4	8	3	1	9
4	8	3	1	6	5	9	7	2
6	9	5	3	2	7	4	8	1
1	7	2	4	8	9	6	3	5
8	4	7	6	5	1	2	9	3
2	3	1	8	9	4	5	6	7
5	6	9	7	3	2	1	4	8

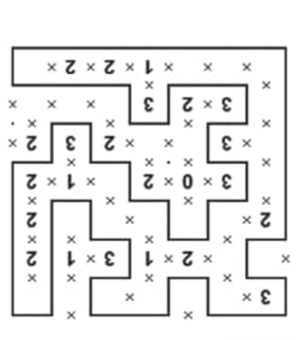
ALPHA TRIANGLE

H, Oh, Hot, Shot, Ethos, Hosted, Ghosted.

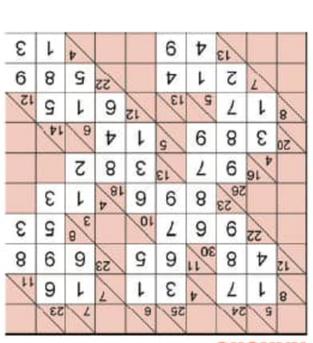
GO FIGURE

Easy
7 + 4 + 5 − 4 = 12
Medium
2 − 3 + 8 − 3 = 4
Hard
4 + 2 + 6 + 4 = 16

LOOP



KAKURO



FAST FIVE

S	M	A	R	T
W	A	F	E	R
U	N	I	T	Y
N	O	R	I	S
G	R	E	E	T

QUOTE UNCODE

The more specific you are, the more general it'll be.

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SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Karavali on July 24

Kannada cinema has seen a drop in box-office success, though weekly releases continue unabated. Last year followed the same pattern until the release of Su from So (Sulochana from Someshwara) on July 24, which turned into a runaway hit and inspired producers to back more Kannada films. Yet, apart from Kantara: A Legend – Chapter 1, most titles failed to deliver returns.

Now, the team behind Karavali is

betting on history repeating itself, choosing July 24 once again for release.

Directed by Gurudatha Ganiga, the film features Prajwal Devaraj and Raj B Shetty in prominent roles, with hopes of recreating the magic that Su from So sparked at the box office.

"We have made all efforts to ensure the movie is interesting and entertaining for audiences. It is a coincidence that the movie Karavali is scheduled to arrive in theatres on July 24. Karavali, based on coastal Karnataka, is made after a gap of one year," the director said.

The poster and teaser of the movie were released recently and managed to create significant curiosity among movie enthusiasts.

Sampada is paired opposite Prajwal Devaraj.

Song on friendship

The forthcoming Kannada film Hulibeera unveiled its song Jigri Dost at Utsav Legacy on Thursday. What sets Hulibeera apart is its strong North Karnataka identity — not only is the story rooted in the region, but most of the cast and crew hail from there.

Directed by Madarangi Mallikarjun, the film stars Anjan of Yarrabirri fame alongside Chaitra Thotadha, with veteran actor Rangayana Raghu portraying the village leader.

The song Jigri Dost is rendered by Malu Nipanal and Shivani.

Unveiling the track, Lahari Velu highlighted Lahari Music's long-standing association with North Karnataka.

"The movie has five songs and all of

them are melodious," said Lahari Velu.

Music director Veer Samarth has said all the songs are folk songs and one of the songs was rendered by Sangeetha Katti. "The movie is made against the backdrop of a village. I happened to watch this movie and became emotional," he said. Thanking guests for gracing the event, director Madarangi Mallikarjun said that the concept of the movie occurred to him five years ago.

Endless work days

Dia Mirza recalls working 28-hour shifts without scripts as newcomer in Bollywood

Actor Dia Mirza recently reflected on the demanding schedules she endured at the beginning of her Bollywood journey, revealing that she often worked continuously for more than a day and was signed for multiple projects without even receiving complete scripts.

Speaking during a candid conversation with filmmaker-choreographer Farah Khan, Dia looked back on her formative years in cinema and the challenges that came with entering the industry at a young age.

Tough start in Bollywood

Farah Khan, while visiting Dia Mirza's home, praised the actor's performances in films like 'Rehnaa Hai Terre Dil Mein' and 'Tumko Na Bhool Paayenge'. She remarked that Dia appeared remarkably confident on screen and never gave the impression of being a first-time actor. Responding to the compliment, Dia spoke about how different her experience was from that of many actors who received extensive training before making their debut.

The actor went on to reveal that she was immediately pushed into multiple projects at once, leaving little time to prepare or learn the craft in a structured manner. "I was straightaway assigned five films simultaneously and found myself working endlessly, often stretching to 27 or 28 hours without a break. I used to always tell you, once you work with Pooja Films, you are prepared to work with any production house in the country. Because we worked hard. Didn't get any script. They would simply narrate the story over the phone and say, 'This is going to be a superhit, just sign it,' and that was enough."

Dia's comments offer a glimpse into an era when hectic shooting schedules and back-to-back assignments were often considered part of a newcomer's struggle in the Hindi film industry.

Upcoming project

On the professional front, Dia Mirza will next be seen in 'Ikka', a courtroom drama directed by Siddharth P Malhotra and produced by Alchemy Films.

The project explores a complex legal battle where questions of justice, morality and personal relationships become increasingly intertwined with one another. —ETimes

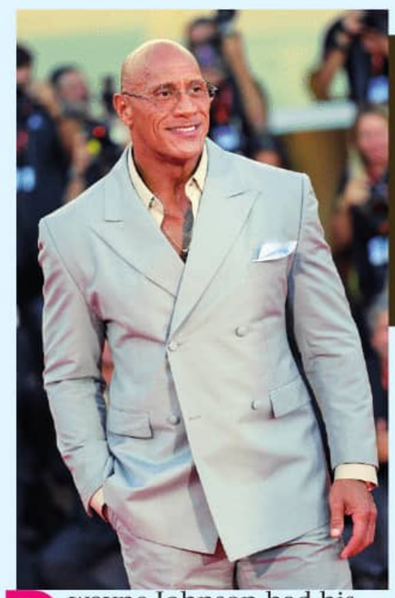
Cut it out

Ahead of its theatrical release on June 26, Ahmed Khan's comedy entertainer 'Welcome to the Jungle' has received certification from the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC). However, the film was cleared only after a series of edits and modifications were implemented. The board reportedly suggested 18 changes, ranging from dialogue alterations to the removal of certain visuals and references.

The latest instalment in the popular 'Welcome' franchise has now been certified with a UA 16+ rating and is set to arrive in cinemas with a runtime of 2 hours and 44 minutes.

The official synopsis describes the film as a chaotic comedy revolving around a billionaire who devises an unusual scheme to fake financial losses by producing a movie designed to fail. To execute the plan, he gathers an unlikely

team that includes a fading superstar and an incompetent director duo, setting the stage for a series of misadventures. — ETimes



Dwayne's 'greatest joy in life'

Dwayne Johnson had his first daughter, Simone, when he was still learning the ropes of his own life, around age 29. While the actor was not always ready, he embraced fatherhood wholeheartedly. During one of his recent interviews, the actor quipped about being a father and called it one of the 'greatest joys' of his life.

Showing photos of him donned in pink makeup, the actor shared a joke that while he may complain a lot about it, he loves every second of it. He added, "It's my greatest joy; I love doing this. My favourite thing today about being a dad is just having such a great connection with all of my daughters."

On top of that, he also weighed in on what it was like for him to be a father at an early age, stating that he and his first daughter, Simone, "grew up together." He added, "At that time in my life, I was just flying by the seat of my pants, and I had no clue what I was doing. I'm trying to figure myself out, and my first daughter is two, three, four, five, six years old; those are very critical ages for you to be around, but I always like to say that we grew up together, her and I.

— ETimes

Sid-Kiara's box office clash

After months of speculation, the makers of Toxic: A Fairytale for Grown-Ups have finally locked a new release date. Headlined by Yash, also starring Kiara Advani, and directed by Geetu Mohandas, the pan-India action spectacle will now hit theatres worldwide on August 26. While Toxic arrives on a Wednesday, giving it a two-day head start before the weekend, it will still face competition at the box office. On August 28, three other films — Khosla Ka Ghosla 2, Shraddha Kapoor's Eetha and Sidharth Malhotra's Vvan — are currently slated to release. Interestingly, if the films release as planned, real-life couple Sidharth and Kiara will see their films clash at the box office.

Toxic was originally slated for an earlier release before undergoing several date changes. Industry buzz linked one of the shifts to a crowded release calendar and a clash with Ranveer Singh's Dhurandhar 2. Toxic was later set for a June 4 release, but Yash confirmed in April that the team needed more time to align its global distribution strategy and international partnerships. —ETimes